



PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Akihiro OSAKA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3652

Application No.: 10/073,876

Examiner: J. Krizek

Filed: February 14, 2002

Docket No.: 105913.01

For: SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING METHOD AND SEMICONDUCTOR
MANUFACTURING APPARATUS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

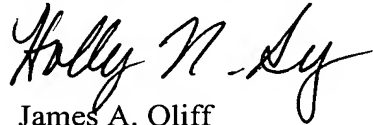
In reply to the October 2, 2003 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally
elect Group II, claims 6-10, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-15 is sufficiently
related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would
encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully
submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without
serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an
entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the
merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis
added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in
order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by
the Patent Office.

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Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:HNS/cfr

Date: October 31, 2003

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